

May 6, 1981

LB 375

Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, did Senator Wesely yield his remaining time to Senator Beutler? Was that his last statement? I understood he was.

PRESIDENT: I didn't hear it but if he did why.....

SENATOR KREMER: I did not want to....

PRESIDENT: There is only about 45 seconds left so it wouldn't give him much time I am afraid. So proceed, Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. I rise to speak in support of the motion to bring LB 375 out on the floor notwithstanding the inaction of the committee. I committed myself to do this quite some time ago. I have always supported advancing LB 375. I have also supported to the best of my ability giving time to the members of the Public Works Committee to look at the bill, to try to satisfy the various interests that took an active interest in this proposed legislation and that included a lot of people. A lot of people worked on the bill as it was being drafted throughout the interim, including industry, agriculture, environmental interests, which again reminds us of the tremendous interests in the State of Nebraska in this resource that means so much to our state, namely water. LB 375 is an alternative that is provided for us under the bill as to how the Natural Resource Districts especially who are primarily involved could do a good job of managing this resource. Nebraska is going to continue to develop. This is brought out so clearly in the High Plains study that has been submitted to Congress and will conclude in about a year. We can well believe that Nebraska will continue to develop to the extent that we probably will be irrigating as one aspect of the use of water, not only 7 million acres or close to it, but probably close to 11 or 12, which means the demand of water is going to continue not only by agriculture but by industry, by instream uses and what-not. This means we are going to have to do something in the way of doing a good job of management. I have strongly said in times past we are going to have to use two tools if Nebraska is going to be what we think she can be and will be, one of them is further development and the building of reservoirs and this is why I was so strong the other day in support of bringing more dollars into the development fund. If we do not do that, management